BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  AUGUST 24, 1999

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 24, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 10, 1999 be approved.

Vice-Chairman Arsenaught opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 13) A&E Services for Building 730 Modifications at Sawyer, Item 14) Neguane Township Brownfield Redevelopment Plan and Public Hearing, and Item 15) Friend of the Court Response to MAC Memo regarding FOC Funding Issues.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 6, 1999, through August 20, 1999 in the amount of $1,631,574.83 be approved.

The Committee considered a recommendation from the July 27, 1999 Committee of the Whole meeting for naming the Sawyer International Airport Passenger Terminal. The recommendation accepted the nomination for naming the terminal after Clarence "Kelly" Johnson and provided for further nominations to be submitted by the August 24th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Also submitted for nomination was a proposal from Comm. Curto that the Sawyer International Airport Terminal Building be dedicated to those Upper Peninsula men and women in aviation whose accomplishments and exploits inspire and guide us. If this approach is accepted then an individual plaque for each person approved (and it would be appropriate to begin with Clarence "Kelly" Johnson) could be placed in the terminal. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board adopt Comm. Curto’s proposal for naming of the Sawyer International Airport Terminal Building.

Comm. Rapport offered a substitute motion that the Sawyer International Airport Terminal be named after Clarence "Kelly" Johnson. Motion died for lack of a second. Comm. Seppanen, with permission of the second (Comm. Wallace) withdrew his original motion. The Committee noted because four Commissioners attending at the Michigan Association of County Commissioner’s Annual Summer Conference, and this matter requires the concurrence of a full board, it would be best to wait.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the naming of the Sawyer International Terminal Building be placed on the September 7, 1999 regular County Board meeting without a Committee of the Whole recommendation.

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The Committee considered a memo from Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, regarding the County/MSU Memorandum of Agreement. The Agreement with Michigan State University allows for the expansion of the Building Family Strength/Family Nutrition Program. Currently the program is limited to nutrition counseling for food stamp recipients. The Family Independence Agency is providing funds to expand the recipients to FIA referrals and the programming to money management and life skills. Passing the funds through Marquette County avoids a 30% administrative and benefits charge from Michigan State University. MSU does not charge counties. The Agreement between MSU and FIA includes a requirement that the funds will be provided through the County. Funding for the program expansion amounts to $9,999.

Mr. Andrews noted he forwarded his suggestions for modifications to the Memorandum of Agreement to Linda Rossberg, County Extension Director. A revised Memorandum of Agreement from Ms. Rossberg between Marquette County and MSU was distributed to the Committee. Civil Counsel Andrews had not had advance opportunity to review the matter but indicated the revised agreement appears to address his suggestions.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  AUGUST 24, 1999

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Michigan State University for the Building Family Strength/Family Nutrition Program contingent upon review by Civil Counsel.

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The Committee considered the MERS Benefit Resolutions. Ruth Solinski, Human Resources and Risk Manager, was present and explained that this year the Board approved changes to the wage and benefit packages offered to non-union employees of the Courthouse, the Health Department, Elected Department Heads, and members of the Courthouse Union AFSCME Local 2914. The Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) requires that the governing body adopt formal resolutions articulating these changes prior to their implementation.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the appropriate MERS Benefit Resolutions which approve changes to the wage and benefit packages offered to non-union employees, the Health Department, Elected Department Heads, and members of the Courthouse Employees Union AFSCME Local 2914.

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The Committee considered a letter from Doug Rothwell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, requesting Marquette County consider responding to a Request for Information (RFI) for creation of a new state-branded network of technology parks.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file and also refer the RFI for creating a state technology park to the Lake Superior Community Partnership and Herb Parsons, Marquette County EDC.

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The Committee considered a communication from Theresa M. Covington, MDH, Keeping Kids Alive: The Michigan Child Death Review Program. Keeping Kids Alive has released its first annual child death review team report prepared by an Okemos based Michigan Public Health Institute for the State Family Independence Agency. The report provides the reasons for child deaths in Michigan communities with recommendations to help reduce the number of preventable child deaths. Citizens may also review the report at a web site www.keepingkidsalive.org.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered a memo from Sharon Hallberg, Gogebic County Treasurer, regarding training on new tax legislation and the important county opt in or opt out choice of the tax sale process. The training session will be held Wednesday, September 15, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Edgewater Motel/Garden Room, Chocolay Township. Administrator Powers and Finance Manager Yoder along with County Treasurer James Sodergren will be attending.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a communication from Jim Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, regarding a recent Court ruling on the settlement of taxes with Tilden and Richmond Townships.

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The Committee considered bid proposals for architectural and engineering services related to the modification of Building No. 730 at KI Sawyer. A memorandum from Ed Bailey, KI Sawyer Development Department, explained that Building No. 730 has been designated for occupancy for SENCO, Inc., and project services include design of a barrier free entry, design of a barrier free restroom, design for repair of an exterior masonry wall crack, and specifications for loading dock bumpers. Construction bids will be solicited once the design phase is completed.
Three proposals were received. Integrated Designs, Inc. was the low bidder, however, the company qualified its proposal with several liability insurance stipulations indicating that the Company and its insurance carrier were not willing or able to meet the County of Marquette’s insurance requirements. The County’s Risk Management Division reviewed the stipulations and found them unacceptable. Therefore, it is recommended that the proposal from Integrated Designs, Inc. be rejected and the second highest bid proposal from Timberland Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $8,900 be accepted.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the proposal from Timberland Engineering, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for modifications to Building No. 730 at KI Sawyer for $8,900.

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The Committee considered a notice from the CUPPAD Regional Commission, subject: Negaunee Township Brownfield Redevelopment Plan and Public Hearing to be held Monday, August 30, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. at the Negaunee Township Community Center. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the draft Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for Township Board action to be taken at the September 9, 1999 meeting. The Brownfield Redevelopment Plan provides for a capture of tax increment revenues attributable to the new development that will occur at the Marquette County Airport site. Funds are to be used for reimbursement of eligible and environmental costs and placement into a local site remediation fund. The Committee urged County staff to attend the public hearing.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that a memo from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, regarding a Michigan Association of Counties memo dated July 28, 1999 on FOC funding issues be placed on file until a future Committee of the Whole meeting during the FY 2000 budget process.

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Vice-Chairperson Arsenault opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wallace presented a fax from a member of the Marquette County Board of Health who would like to take six months off from the Board, and if this is not possible, questioned whether or not he should resign. The fax was given to the County Clerk for further review during the appointment process.

Comm. Rapport noted that State Representative Mike Prusi, along with a fact finding group of other state officials, will be touring the Marquette County Medical Care Facility on Friday, August 27th at 1:00 P.M. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Comm. Rapport also noted she placed a list of proposed invitees to the terminal dedication dinner for their review. Let her know if anyone has been omitted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 24, 1999, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 10, 1999.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Consideration of Naming the Sawyer International Airport Terminal Building.
7. Proposed County/MSU Memorandum of Agreement.
8. Resolutions for Adopting MERS Benefits.
9. Request from Michigan EDC for Response to RFI (Request for Information) for
   Creation of State Technology Parks.
12. Letter from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding Recent Court Ruling
    on the Specific Iron Ore Tax.
13. 8/13/99 Modification #730
14. Response to MAC
15. Response to MAC
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.